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**BOROUGH
OF
CHIPPENHAM**

1953



BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR

ENDING

31st. DECEMBER

- 1953 -

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY ETC.

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

C.L. Broomhead, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.

also Medical Officer of Health for the Boroughs of Calne & Malmesbury, and the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham and Malmesbury.

(b) SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

S.F. French, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR.

R.P. Pengelly, Sanitary Inspector's Cert. S.I.E.J.B.,

Meat & Other Foods Inspector's Cert. R.S.I.

(c) The Committee of the Borough Council dealing directly with Public Health matters is:-

The Public Health & Highways Committee.

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Chippenham Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ended 31st. December, 1953.

Perusal of the pages in the report devoted to statistics will show that the birth rate has increased, and that the death rate and infantile mortality rates are increased also. Diseases of the Circulatory system, particularly Coronary Disease, or Angina figure prominently as causes of death, together with the various forms of malignant disease. It is interesting to note that there is no increase in the number of deaths attributed to Cancer of the Lung or Bronchus. The Infantile Mortality Rate shows an increase as compared with the rate for 1952 due principally to some increase in the number of deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age, i.e. of a total of nine infant deaths during 1953, seven occurred during the first four weeks of life.

During the first quarter of the year an outbreak of Measles occurred. Apart from this outbreak, little infectious disease was in evidence during 1953. Neither of the two cases of Poliomyelitis were subsequently confirmed. Diphtheria was once more conspicuous by its absence.

The demand for beds in Isolation Hospitals for infectious cases is steadily diminishing, making this type of hospital available for the treatment and nursing of other forms of illness. This general freedom from infectious disease, however, requires constant vigilance and is in measure due to the activities of Local Authorities and Health Officers in the past, i.e. previous preventive measures in the public health field are now paying a dividend.

Increase in the expectation of life gives an opportunity for the study of the causes of Cancer and disease of the circulation as these principally belong to the latter part of life. However, if the Local Authority is to play any part in the study of the causes of disease, other than infectious disease, information will be needed on the incidence of the other forms of illness and disability necessitating attendance at a General Practitioner's Surgery or admission to hospital. Birth and Death Rates, the causes of death and the incidence of infectious disease constitute the only statistical information received at present with the exception of weekly and quarterly numerical returns from the Registrar General in respect of the country as a whole.

The various Ministries of the Central Government issue from time to time new legislation dealing with the health of the population and reference is made in the report to that which became operative during 1953. Much of the practical application of this legislation becomes the responsibility of the Senior Sanitary Inspector thereby adding to his already heavy commitments.

I am grateful to Mr. French and the staff of the Borough Council for their help in compiling this report.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C. L. BROOMHEAD.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres) 1843

Population 14990

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953 according
to the Rate Book) 4387

Rateable Value £102,627

Sum represented by Penny Rate £409.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	102	105	207
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Total Live Births	106	108	214

Birth Rate for the Borough 14.2 per
1000 of the
population.

Comparative Rate for England & Wales 15.5 per
1000 of the
population.

The Birth Rate for the Borough this year shows an increase as compared with 1952 when it was estimated at 11.3 per 1000 of the population. The Comparative Rate for England & Wales also shows a minimal increase over the previous year's figure of 15.3 per 1000 of the population.

STILL BIRTHS

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	1	6	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total Still Births	1	6	7

Rate per 1000 of the population 0.46

Comparative Rate for 1000 of the population
(England & Wales) 0.35

The Still Birth Rate given above is slightly higher than the rate for 1952 given as 0.26 per 1000 of the population. There has been no change in the rate for England & Wales.

DEATHS

	<u>Male</u> 117	<u>Female</u> 119	<u>Total</u> 236
Death Rate for the Borough.			15.7 per 1000 of the population.
Comparative Rate for England & Wales			11.4 per 1000 of the population

The Death Rate this year shows an increase over the rate for the previous year given as 9.8 per 1000 of the population. The Comparative rate for England & Wales also shows a minimal increase over the 1952 rate of 11.3 per 1000 of the population.

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	-	1
Tuberculosis (other)	-	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective & parasitic dis.	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	2	1	3
" " Lung, Bronchus	3	-	3
" " Breast	-	5	5
" " Uterus	-	2	2
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	8	12	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	2
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous sys.	12	23	35
Coronary disease angina	18	12	30
Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	28	27	55
Other circulatory disease	7	2	9
Influenza	3	5	8
Pneumonia	7	4	11
Bronchitis	10	2	12
Other diseases of resp. system	-	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	2
Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	-	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	-	2
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	-	4	4
Other defined and ill-defined dis.	11	15	26
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	-	1	1
Suicide	-	1	1
Homicide & Operations of war	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	117	119	236

Cancer and Heart Disease contributed largely to the increase in the total number of deaths this year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:-

Table "A"

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	5	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total:-	4	5	9

Infant Mortality Rate:-

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age
per 1000 live births42.0

Comparative Rate for England & Wales
per 1000 related live births26.8

Table "B"

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age:-

BIRTHS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	3	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	4	3	7

It should be noted that the deaths recorded in Table "B" have already been included in Table "A".

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the Infectious Diseases notified during 1953 as compared with the years 1949, 1950, 1951 and 1952.

<u>DISEASE</u>	1949		1950		1951		1952		1953	
	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b
Scarlet Fever	14	14	17	17	26	25	14	13	19	19
Whooping Cough	24	24	22	22	47	47	2	2	48	48
Diphtheria	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	17	17	87	87	188	188	6	6	198	198
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	4	2	-	-	8	2	-	-	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	1	1	1	1	29	29	31	31
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	3	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Erysipelas	2	2	1	1	3	3	2	2	1	1
Pneumonia	7	7	7	7	2	2	4	4	2	2
Cerebro-spinal fever.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:-	76	69	141	136	277	270	60	59	303	301

There was an increase in the total number of notifications received this year principally due to an outbreak of measles which occurred during the first quarter of the year

"a" Numbers originally notified.

"b" Final numbers after correction.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Distribution according to Age
Notifications received during 1953 - Corrected Figures.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Age Unknown	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	1	4	12	1	-	1	-	1	19
Whooping Cough	3	32	13	-	-	-	-	-	48
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	5	120	65	3	5	-	-	-	198
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	10	19	-	-	2	31
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	9	156	90	14	27	2	-	3	301

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases of tuberculosis notified and confirmed by the County Chest Physician during the year show a slight decrease as compared with the previous year.

NEW CASES DURING.

YEAR	PULMONARY	NON-PULMONARY	TOTAL
1948	12	1	13
1949	10	3	13
1950	6	2	8
1951	6	1	7
1952	10	3	13
1953	5	1	6

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY
DURING 1953 ACCORDING TO AGE AND SEX.

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>	<u>NEW CASES</u>				<u>DEATHS</u>			
	<u>RESP.</u>		<u>NON-RESP.</u>		<u>RESP.</u>		<u>NON-RESP.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5								
15								
25		2			1	1		
35								
45	1							
55				1				
65 upwards.	2				1			
TOTAL:-	3	5	-	1	2 %	1	-	-

% This column includes one death of a notified case of Tuberculosis not classified as such on the Death Return

The above figures do not represent the total number of individuals suffering from tuberculosis in the Borough. In addition to the new cases notified each year, a certain proportion of tuberculous individuals either move into the Borough or move out.

A Mobile X-Ray Unit operated in the Borough during October. Of a total of 1,370 examinations, 5 persons were found to be suffering from tuberculous conditions, and a further 5 individuals were shown to be suffering from conditions other than tuberculosis. It is hoped that it may be possible to arrange for the Unit to visit Chippenham during the forthcoming year and that a greater number of persons will avail themselves of this service.

Remaining on the Register of Tuberculous Persons at the end of 1953 were the following cases:-

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	35	24	59
Non-Pulmonary	8	16	24
Total:-	43	40	83

The National Assistance Act, 1948
Section 47., and National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

The Amendment Act of 1951 gives Local Authorities further powers to enable them to act expeditiously with certain cases of persons in need of care and attention which they are unable to provide for themselves and are not receiving from other people. It is considered preferable that the elderly should remain in their own homes if at all possible, and before the provisions of the above Acts are implemented, every enquiry is made and assistance offered through the Home Help Service Scheme.

It was necessary on one occasion only to use the above legislation during the year. The patient was an elderly woman, living alone in insanitary conditions. She was frail and infirm and unable to look after herself properly.

Selenium.

In May 1953 a complaint was received from an allotment holder adjacent to a large industry in the Borough that foliage and vegetation was discoloured and withering. Samples of the vegetation sent to the Analyst were reported to contain Selenium in amounts varying between fourteen and sixty parts per million. These concentrations were much larger than those generally accepted as permissible in produce intended for human consumption. Allotment holders in the vicinity of the Works were informed and advised against the consumption of vegetable produce etc. until further investigations could be completed. At the same time arrangements were made for the removal of waste garden produce to the Council's Rubbish Tip.

Since the Alkali Works Regulations Act, 1906 makes no reference to Selenium, nor do any of the additional schedules, a report forwarded to the Ministry of Health was directed to the Inspector of Alkali, Ministry of Housing & Local Government.

An interview with representatives of the firm resulted in the cessation of the experimental processing which had contributed largely to the contamination and to improvements in the planning of new installations.

A detailed survey was made of an area in proximity to the Works and samples of garden produce and soil were found to contain Selenium in amounts varying from 1 - 18 parts per million in foliage and .2 to 6.0 parts per million in soil. Warnings concerning the consumption and disposal of garden produce were issued to those concerned.

No confirmed cases of Selenium poisoning were brought to notice.

It is interesting to note that even in districts characterised by widespread poisoning by Selenium of horses and cattle, human beings are little affected, due no doubt to differences in diet. The cooking of vegetables, and the fact that protein in a diet diminishes the toxicity of Selenium.

In conclusion, it was decided to leave further investigations until the early Spring of 1954 in the hope that the Winter weather would effect a reduction in the Selenium content of the soil. This, in fact, has now occurred, and the persons concerned have been notified that their gardens could once more be cultivated, subsequent to a dressing of superphosphate.

FOOD POISONING.

During the year five cases of food poisoning were notified and confirmed by bacteriological investigation.

In one case all food was prepared and consumed in the patient's home. Five other members of the household were not affected, and the cause was not ascertained.

The consumption of boiled ham and synthetic cream was thought to be the cause of the remaining four cases.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following children received primary immunisations during 1953.

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 14</u>
47	39	5

Total :- 91

Total immunised child population as at 31.XII.1953.

<u>Ages 0 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 14</u>	<u>Total</u>
557	2349	2906

VACCINATION

The following children were vaccinated during 1953:-

<u>Under 1 year</u>	<u>Ages 1 - 4</u>	<u>Ages 5 - 15</u>
112	20	32

Total:- 164

LEGISLATION.

During the year under review the following legislation relating to public health came into operation.

1. The Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1953.

These Regulations which came into force on the 1st April, supercede the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927 and the Infectious Diseases (London) Regulations, 1927. The general substance and form of the new regulations are similar to the old, in that they require notification of Malaria, Dysentery, Acute Primary Pneumonia and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia, but in addition, Local Authorities are now empowered to take action against the risk of food poisoning in cases of typhoid fever, dysentery, paratyphoid fever and other salmonella infections, dysentery and staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning. The regulations provide for action to be taken not only with regard to a person suffering from the disease, but also a person shown to be a carrier of the disease, thus such persons may not only be prevented from continuing to work in an occupation connected with food or drink, but also from entering such an occupation. A copy of the Regulations were sent to all Medical Practitioners practising in the Borough.

LEGISLATION (Continued)

2. The Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk)(Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

These regulations came into force on the 20th. December, 1953 and require that as from the 1st. October, 1954, containers of pasteurised milk must be provided with overlapping caps, and permits the sterilisation of milk in cans or other suitable containers as well as in bottles.

3. The Milk & Dairies (Amendment) Regulations, 1953.

These amendment regulations which came into force on the 27th. December, 1953 exclude from the registration requirements of the principal regulations, persons who sell cream in the hermetically sealed containers in which it is delivered to the premises and who are not otherwise distributors of milk.

4. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

This Act, which came into force on the 14th. July, 1953 provides, inter alia, for the making of Closing Orders in respect of certain buildings hitherto required to be demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and also provides for the revocation of a Demolition Order and the making of a Closing Order in lieu thereof.

In addition to the new Public Health Legislation laid before Parliament during the year, various circulars, memoranda and Orders have been issued by the Ministries of Health & Food on matters pertaining to health covered by the existing Public Health Acts.

Impending Legislation which may possibly come into force during 1954 include a new Food & Drugs Act, Slaughterhouse Act and a Housing Act.

During the preparation of this report the following Circulars and Memorandum have been received.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

A Circular issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government stresses that Local Authorities should now take up as a matter of urgency, the campaign of Slum Clearance which the war interrupted. This is a matter which will require careful thought and planning during the forthcoming year.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

A Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health on the prevention of this disease, mentions, inter alia, that the rapid decline in the death rate from tuberculosis in recent years has not been accompanied by a corresponding decline in notifications, and that this indicates a need for intensifying various preventive measures.

Under existing legislation, the County Council, the District Council and the Regional Hospital Board are collectively responsible for the treatment and after-care of the tuberculous patient. The prevention of this disease also rests with this "tripartite" body; the main function of the District Council being to ensure that the tuberculous patient and his family are adequately housed.

I am grateful to Mr. Phillips for the following detail in respect of Water Supplies, Refuse Disposal and Sewage Disposal.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Present Position.

The Council's Water Undertaking has produced an average of 2,090,000 gallons per day throughout the year. This output is within the possible yield of the borehole sources at Westmead and Ivyfields, Chippenham.

The quantity and quality has been satisfactory. Precautionary chlorination of .2 parts per million continues to be carried out at the Council's Pumping Station.

The water is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

During 1953 the distribution of the daily output of the Undertaking has been effected as follows:-

	<u>1,000 gallons per day</u>
Bulk supplies to Calne & Chippenham R.D.C.	500
Bulk supplies to the Bradford & Melksham R.D.C.	50
Bulk supplies to the Trowbridge & Melksham Water Board	100
Bulk Supplies to Government establishments in Hawthorn	460
Local Industrial Supplies	330
Chippenham area of supply	<u>650</u> <u>2090</u>

Samples of the raw water from each of the five boreholes in turn are taken each week for bacteriological examination and samples are also taken from the water in supply every week for similar examination. Examinations have proved satisfactory with very few exceptions and chemical examinations have also shown no abnormality.

Future Schemes.

During 1954 it is hoped to provide for the adjoining Rural Districts' Eastern Areas Supply Scheme. Although the trial borehole sunk at Patterdown Chippenham is not to be developed, for the time being the Council have purchased a temporary pumping plant in order to raise water from Westmead Pumping Station to the Rural District Council's new Reservoir at Bowden Hill.

In the meantime, the Corporation have obtained the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to prove whether or not the Ivyfields sources can be further developed, so that a supply of some 4,000,000 gallons per day may be assured. To this end, No. 3 Borehole at Ivyfields Pumping Station is being deepened and it is hoped to test pump this source to 200,000 gallons per day during the Autumn of 1954. During the period this work is being carried out, chlorination of the water supply is being increased to obtain free chlorine residual at the Reservoir of 2 parts per million and other precautionary measures have been arranged in order to protect the purity of the water supplied to consumers.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Refuse collection in the Borough continues to be carried out by two vehicles, a Lewin Compressing Refuse Collection Machine and a covered Refuse Collecting Vehicle. The collection of house refuse is carried out weekly and trade refuse from business premises is also collected weekly. Additional collections are made at premises where food is being handled, such as, cafes fish shops etc.

Disposal of Refuse.

Refuse collected is disposed of by controlled tipping at two sites. The Cuttings, Bath Road and the disused river cut at Westmead. The latter site is used for summer tipping and the former during the winter months. Nuisances continue to be controlled by covering refuse with soil and used moulding sand from the local industrial works, the use of tip dressing and the frequent eradication of rats.

Kitchen Waste.

The Corporation continue to collect kitchen waste by the use of street bins in which householders deposit waste foods. During 1953, the Council have commenced collecting waste by means of small bins loaned to individual householders. This has proved successful but it has not been possible to extend this service as rapidly as could be desired on account of shortage of labour to carry out the collection of the kitchen waste.

Sewage Disposal.

As mentioned in the Medical Officer of Health's Report for the previous year, treatment of sewage from the Borough at both works, Westmead and Patterdown, is not considered satisfactory. The general expansion of both domestic and industrial properties in the town has further increased the loads on the sewage purification works and the production of an effluent which does not pollute the river is achieved only in difficult working conditions. In many periods of the year it has not been possible to obtain even a fair effluent. The Borough Surveyor's Department co-operates as closely as possible with the Officers of the River Board and, with the assistance of Mr. Hill, Sewage Chemist at Corsham, the best use of the plant available is obtained. The Council is being advised to carry out improvements to the Sewage Disposal Works, but the shortage and movement of technical staff and the pressure of other work, such as housing development, has delayed the preparation of schemes for the extension of the Sewage Works.

Sewers.

During the year extensions to the sewerage system have been carried out to serve the development of sites by the Corporation and for the areas being developed for private enterprise houses. In all these areas the policy of obtaining a separate sewerage system as far as possible is being continued.

During 1954, the Corporation hope to obtain some progress in the provision of the disposal of surface water in the North-Eastern parts of the Borough, some areas of which suffer severe flooding during heavy rainfall. The Corporation is aware that the sewers in the older parts of the district continue to be surcharged during periods of heavy rainfall and some minor flooding is experienced on these occasions.

R E P O R T

of the

S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

TO:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Members
 of the Chippenham Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a Report of the work
carried out in my Department during the year 1953.

The tables and particulars conform to the Ministry's
Regulations and requirements.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S.F. FRENCH,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

848 inspections were made of 360 premises in connection with Housing and Nuisances, and as a result 143 notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances and housing repairs. 7 Statutory Notices were served and complied with.

4 houses were connected up to the town sewers, and four pail closets converted to water closets, at the joint expense of owner and the Council, in accordance with Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

One pail closet was converted to a water-closet and a cess-pool constructed, at the expense of the owner, to a house near the boundary where no sewer is available.

Sewers and water mains have been extended to the Greenway Hill and Hill Corner Area, and it is proposed to lay water into the 24 houses and to convert the pail-closets to water-closets during 1954. This scheme is a natural sequel to the extension of the Borough.

HOUSING.

Routine house-to-house inspection is being carried out, and every effort made to keep all houses in a weatherproof condition and a reasonable standard internally.

The future, of course, is bound up in the legislation which is at present going through Parliament. It is difficult at this stage to say what will be the practical results, but it is hoped to take an early opportunity to lay before the Council particulars of sub-standard and unfit houses for action under the Clearance Area and Demolition Order procedure of the Housing Act.

No Improvement grants were made under the Housing Act, 1949.

We are fortunate in this area in that overcrowding does not cause us serious concern. Our records show only 2 cases of statutory overcrowding in non-council houses and 20 cases in Council houses at the end of the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1953.

Demolition and Closing Orders.

- (1) Housing Act, 1936.
 - (a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11. 2
 - (b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force 1
 - (c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)NIL.
- (2) Housing Act, 1949.
 - (a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1). NIL
 - (b) Demolition Orders determined and closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)NIL
- (3) Local Government(Miscellaneous Provisions)Act, 1953.
 - Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)NIL

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1953 (Continued)

Repairs

4. Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Public Health Act or Housing Acts 79
5. Public Health Acts
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after the service of formal notices
(a) by owners. 7
(b) By local authority in default of owners. NIL
6. Housing Act, 1936.
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9,10,11 and 16)
(a) By owners. 2
(b) By local authority in default of owners NIL

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The following sites were used during the year:-

Foghamshire	3
Bath Road	3
Salterford	3
Hungerdown Lane	3
Derriads Lane	3
Wood Lane	1
Patterdown	1
Hardenhuish Lane	1
Council's site-	
Greenway Lane	4

Frequent inspections are made of these sites, which, generally speaking, are well maintained.

All the above caravans are used as dwelling-houses.

Applications are still being received from would-be caravan dwellers for a site. In view of the success of the Council's site at Greenway Lane, and in an attempt to ease the position, the Council have decided to proceed with the preparation of the site works for eight caravans at Ladyfield Road.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

	Number on Register	Inspns.	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
<u>PREMISES.</u>				
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	7	-	-
2. Factories not incl- uded in (1) in which sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	63	33	7	-
3. Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (exclud- ing Out-Workers premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:-	84	40	7	-

2 CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Number of cases in which defects found
Found Remedied Referred Pros-
TO HM Insp. BY HM Insp.cns.

PARTICULARS				
Want of Cleanliness (S1)	7	7	-	-
Overcrowding(S2)				
Unreasonable temp. (S3)				
Inadequate Vent.(S4)				
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)				
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				
(a) Insufficient				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2		
(c) Not separate for sexes.				
Other offences against the Act(not including offences relating to Outwork)	2	2		
TOTAL:-	11	11	-	-

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection was carried out in 22 homes after infectious diseases. Bedding and similar articles are treated by steam when this is considered necessary. No charge is made for fumigation or steam disinfection when this is done because of infectious disease.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN.

A few cases of verminous infestations were dealt with. D.D.T. and Gammexane Insecticides were used and were successful in the cases dealt with.

The ponds at Bath Road, Hardenhuish Lane, Malmesbury Road were sprayed with Kerosene on two occasions during the summer as a control measure against mosquitoes.

RODENT CONTROL.

The methods used have, on the whole, become standardised throughout the country, and are as recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Poisons used are Zinc Phosphide, Arsenious Oxide, Warfarin, A.N.T.U., and Red Squill.

I have found the results of using Warfarin, one of the new poisons, extremely gratifying. This is a blood anti-coagulant which when ingested regularly in small doses over a period of time induces fatal haemorrhage in rats.

The sewers, brooks and sewage outfall works are now treated as a routine measure twice yearly, the refuse tip is closely watched and treated as often as may be necessary.

The following details are in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries.

Measure of Control by Local Authority.

	<u>Type of Property.</u>				TOTAL
	L.A.	Dwellg Houses	Agric- ultural	All other incl. Business & Industrial.	
1.Total No. of Prop- erties in L.A.'s district.	11	4324	17	589	4941
2.No. of properties inspected by L.A. in 1953 as a result (a) of notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) -	15	-	16	31
	(b) 8	12	2	4	26
3.No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	<u>Minor</u> 1	-	-	-	1
	<u>Major</u> 6	8	-	7	21
4.No. of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	-	-	1	1
5.No. of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority.	7	8	-	8	23

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Both Bacon Factories are now operating. The Wiltshire Bacon Company, during the year, slaughtered some 110,704 pigs on their premises. Messrs. Spear Bros. & Clark killed 11,917.

The other slaughterhouses in Chippenham were, during 1953, controlled by the Ministry of Food and served the areas of the Rural Districts of Calne & Chippenham, Devizes and the Boroughs of Calne, Chippenham and Devizes, a population of approximately 70,000.

The Ministry of Food were again reminded of the Council's representations in regard to the need to provide a new slaughterhouse in Chippenham and were asked to place the Council's application before the Inter-Departmental Committee which had recently been appointed to consider the establishment of slaughterhouses.

The improvement in the vehicles used for the transport of meat in this area has been maintained. The interior surfaces, including the floors, are now of impervious material, capable of being easily cleansed. Meat is still transported without any wrapping against contamination.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1953.

	Cattle, excl'dg. cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep Lambs	Pigs.
No. killed (if known)	1939	833	4319	7506	123160
No. inspected	1939	833	4319	7506	123160
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	20	139	39	125
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	383	250	17	741	2823
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	19.10	32.41.	3.61	10.39	2.39
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	12	1	-	93
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	117	114	-	-	7046
Percentage of the no. inspected affected with tuberculosis.	6.14	15.13	0.02	-	5.80

Nearly one out of every seven cows examined and one out of every sixteen other beasts were infected with tuberculosis, while one out of every four animals examined were affected with some other disease.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED 1953 (Continued)

The incidence of tuberculosis in slaughtered animals shows little difference when compared with last year's report. When tuberculosis is found in calves at the slaughterhouses information is passed to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the attention of their Veterinary Officers.

There was a marked increase in the no. of pigs slaughtered.

MEAT CONDEMNED (HOME KILLED) DURING 1953

<u>BOVINES</u>	T.	C.	Q.	L
38 Carcasses	9	0	2	23
15 Forequarters	1	0	2	9
1 Hindquarter		1	2	20
150 Heads	2	2	3	12
480 Livers plus 132 part livers	2	14	3	24
160 Plucks	1	1	1	20
29 Spleens			3	3
32 Skirts			3	12
Meat		16	3	19
Other Offal	2	5	2	24

<u>PIGS</u>				
218 Carcasses	13	3	0	5
2287 Heads	13	14	3	19
Meat	4	12	3	5
Offal	35	7	2	21

<u>SHEEP</u>				
39 Carcasses		19	0	10
Meat		2	1	3
Offal		15	0	18

<u>CALVES</u>				
140 Carcasses	2	12	0	5
Veal		1	0	8
Offal			2	3

TOTAL:-	90	15	0	11
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MISCELLANEOUS GOODS CONDEMNED DURING 1953.

<u>MEAT</u>	<u>MISCELLANEOUS GOODS.</u>
190 lbs tinned luncheon meats	18 tins soup
120 " " veal	4 " jam
64 " " ham	8 " baby foods
25 tins stewed steak	11 jars pickles
108 tins various meats	414 lbs chocolate biscuits
79 lbs. sausages.	15 pks. Swiss Rolls
	15 tins Beverages
	7 lbs. cheese

<u>FRUIT</u>	<u>MILK.</u>
1621 tins fruit	
	258 tins milk and cream

<u>VEGETABLES</u>
470 tins vegetables.

<u>FISH</u>
71 tins fish.

CYSTICERCUS BOVIS.

In November, 1948, a circular was received from the Ministry of Food referring to the reported occurrence of cysticercus bovis infestations of cattle in several areas of Great Britain. Routine examination of beef carcasses and offals is carried out to detect the parasites. Cysticercus Bovis is the cystic stage of taenia saginata, the tapeworm of man, and the danger to human beings consuming infested meat will be realised. During the year 32 cases were found, the cysts being located in the head in 21 cases, in the heart in 8 cases and in the diaphragm in 3 cases. Where infestation is localised, the part of the carcass or the organ affected is rejected as unfit for human consumption; the remainder of the carcass is placed in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20°F for a period of three weeks, and then released for human consumption.

FOOD HYGIENE.

309 inspections were made of premises preparing and retailing foodstuffs. Matters dealt with included washing facilities, cleanliness of premises, utensils etc. and the hygienic wrapping of foodstuffs. Constant supervision is exercised over the stalls retailing foodstuffs in the Wharf Market.

Progress in maintaining improvements in food premises in the district was satisfactory during 1953. No formal action was required under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and occupiers of shop premises willingly co-operated following inspection and advice.

More shopkeepers are turning to partly enclosed glass counters to protect their products. Cold storage equipment for meat and other perishable foodstuffs is also being installed to an increasing extent. In the main, I think we can feel pleased with the improved conditions in the various types of food premises. It is only in rare cases that neglect is found. Employers could give more attention to the cigarette habit by workers in kitchens and other food preparing rooms. It is not uncommon to see workers snatch cigarettes from their mouths when an inspector enters.

Details of Food Premises in the District.

Bakers	7
Butchers	15
Bacon Factories	2
Cafes & Restaurants	14
Confectioners	7
Fish Fryers & Fish-	
Mongers	9
Fruiterers & Green-	
grocers	11
General Grocery,	
Provisions etc.	43
Hotels & Licensed	
Premises.	34
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14. - Premises registered under Food & Drugs Act, 1938, Section

Preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food.	20
Manufacture and sale of Ice Cream (only two manufactured during the year)	5
Sale of ice-cream only.	40

Method of disposal of condemned food:

All carcasses and offals found at the Bacon Factories and Slaughter-houses to be unfit for human consumption are mutilated and dyed prior to disposal for processing.

FOOD HYGIENE (Continued)

Other foodstuffs are collected and disposed of on the Council's refuse tip.

MILK & DAIRIES.

No. of Registered Dairies		8
No. of Registered Distributors	9	
No. of Registered Distributors with premises outside the Boro'	2	11
No. of "T.T." Dealers' Licences		7
No. of "T.T." Supplementary Dealers Licences		2
No. of Pasteurised Dealers' Licences		5
No. of Pasteurisation Plants		2
No. of T.T. samples examined (Methylene Blue)	133	
No. of Biological samples examined		17
No. of inspections made during the year		51

Of the 133 samples of T.T. milks taken, 24 failed the standard required by the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/50. Failures were notified to the County Milk Regulations Officer in order that investigations could be made on the producers premises by the Milk Production Advisory Officers. Of the 17 samples taken for biological tests, the reports showed "T.B. not present" in every case.

No notices were served during the year under the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949.

There appears to have been some misinterpretation in the country of Art. 29 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949. It was thought that this clause would prohibit use of the hand-pail in the sale of milk to the public, and one distributor in Chippenham was persuaded, on the strength of the clause, to cease this form of delivery. Another distributor continued however, and when the advice of the Ministry was sought it was said the clause was not intended to prohibit the use of the hand-pail. When this area becomes a "specified" area however, the distribution of "loose" milk will finish.

ICE-CREAM.

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale (only two manufactured during the year)	5
Number of premises registered for sale only	40
Premises from which ice-cream is sold but exempt from registration	3
Inspection of premises.	85
Number of samples	62

Of the samples, 41 were placed in Provisional Grade 1 and 19 in Grade 2; 2 only failed (one manufactured in the Borough and one outside). The Laboratory standard, of course, is not a statutory one, but is one which is used to give guidance to Local Authorities to indicate faults in manufacture and handling.

Wrapped ice-cream is now the rule rather than the exception, and probably accounts for the improvement in sample results.

In 1951, the Ministry of Food made an Order setting out standards for the composition of ice cream. Briefly, this provided that ice cream should contain a minimum of 5 per cent fat, 10 per cent sugar and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent milk solids, other than fat. These are, of course, minimum standards, and some companies do produce an ice cream with a 10 percent fat content. As the Order is administered by the County Council, no information is available as to the composition of ice cream sold in the Borough.

